

# LOCAL I-S NEWS

*for department store workers*

VOL 6, NO. 4

264

OCTOBER 1, 1954

## Stewards Cheer CIO Praise of I-S; Back Calls For Strong Contract Defense, Political Action



Sam Kovenetsky

More than 250 Shop Stewards present at an all-day conference held on September 14th cheerfully heard Local I-S described as an organization having "splendid character, militancy of program, and outstanding solidarity" by CIO's Regional Director Michael Mann.

All through the series of reports by the Union's officers and invited guests there ran the theme of "more political action." Both

President Sam Kovenetsky and Regional Director Mann placed heavy stress on the impact of political developments on previously won economic gains.

Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian, whose reports dealt with "Our fight for contract enforcement" and "Our accomplishments in Union and Community social welfare," both reflected the need for political changes if work in those areas is to be substantially improved.

Attorneys Asher Schwartz and Joseph DeFede graphically showed the practical effects of politics on such down-to-earth matters as arbitrating contract disputes and trying to win a claim for Workmen's Compensation.

By the end of the day it was crystal clear to everyone that all the things which concern us are affected by politics—and that labor's political action is required to tip the scales in our favor.

### Contract Enforcement

Following President Sam Kovenetsky's keynote speech, which was reported in the last issue of the Local I-S NEWS, Vice President Phil Hoffstein delivered an all-out attack against Macy's persistent efforts to "evade or violate" the contract.

He cited numerous instances of grievances which have been fought out, to substantiate his statement that, "We can always be sure of one thing—Macy's will never give up trying by various means to take back all or part of what they have been forced to give up at the bargaining table."

He coupled this with a strong appeal to the Stewards to "do all you can to see that people don't fall into the trap of believing rumors so often instigated by management. See that they don't do the boss' dirty work by turning against their co-workers. Our unity is the only guarantee that we will keep what we have and be able to go on to win more."

The heads that kept nodding in agreement and the intent silence of the Stewards proved, beyond a doubt, that the Vice President was

(Continued on page 3)



Phil Hoffstein



George Gurian



A record number of Stewards (250) joined to make the 1954 all-day conference a huge success. Most widely heard comment at the end of the long day was, "the best ever."



## BRANCH STORE NEWS

### JAMAICA

Former I-S'er Jeanne Heywood surprised all her friends here by announcing the birth of her TEN POUND boy. Good luck to you and the new arrival from all of us . . . Ann Smith's son, Freddie, of the U. S. Air Force "breezed" into town with his wife Joan and little daughter Colleen. Freddie is also one of our alumni . . . Welcome. Back with us again is Grace Page (Sportswear); Florence Ulrich, Eleanor Clade, Edna Nerenberg, Vicki Leto and Mrs. Kudasch. It's good to have you back . . . Marge Northorn left last month after having been with us for a long time. Marge was presented with a set of silver . . . Carrie Pedersen takes over as Steward in her place . . . and another new Steward is Frank Schramm in J9 . . . Joe Mondello of the Shoe Department is always good for a laugh. His favorite exit note is, "Always be nice to the boys on the way up, because you'll meet those same boys on your way down." . . . We here in Jamaica have an especially proud record of participation in the Greater New York Fund to look back on. We set a real fine pace in last year's drive and should all be giving some mighty serious thought to how well we are going to do when we get started again next month. It's hard to think of anything that merits more of an effort than an outfit that makes possible the existence of 423 agencies that exist only in order to serve people in need. Let's think about—and then give GENEROUSLY!

### FLATBUSH

This is it, folks. My last column to you. From now on Rose Nagler (Cashier) will be your reporter. I enjoyed writing for you, but due to outside activities I find I no longer have the time to spare. I hope you give Rose the same wonderful cooperation you gave me . . . As you know, at our last Divisional Meeting Anthony (Tony) Biondo from Major Appliances was elected to the Store Committee. Congratulations, Tony . . . George Jones (Platform) is beaming with pride at the new addition to his family. Best of luck, George . . . Sue Cologero (F8) has left to become an ideal little mother. She's hoping for a cute Christmas package . . . Nearly all our Stop Stewards attended the all-day Conference at the Martinique, and report that it was excellent . . . William Hammil (F6) is in Veterans Hospital in Brooklyn. Why not drop him a line? . . . Beatrice Langer's son was recently confirmed . . . Happy 25th anniversary to Lila Optican (F10) . . . Watch for the date of our Barn Dance, which promises to be fun—as usual . . . Our Ladies Bowling team is rolling, so if you're interested, come on out and join us . . . That about wraps it up. I'll see you around the store folks—and I'll be reading the column to keep posted. Thanks for making this job a pleasure.



Anne Bowen

### PARKCHESTER

Leslie Steven Kohn, pride and joy of Michael Kohn of the Jewelry Department, will enjoy and celebrate his very first birthday at a party on October 27th. Ice cream, cake and soda pop will be served . . . Mrs. DeJong of P6 is preparing to spend her vacation with her daughter and new granddaughter in California. Congratulations and pleasant journey . . . Anita Ryan of Children's Shoes recently underwent surgery. We all wish this wonderful lady a speedy and complete recovery . . . Our heartiest congratulations to Ann Zazali's (P10) daughter, Joy. She is now teaching at PS 47 here in the Bronx . . . Let's all be sure to make a note of the fact that we have our Divisional Meeting scheduled for October 13th. When we read in the papers of the things that have happened in other unions we should have a new appreciation of our own and a new determination to do everything we can to keep it as good and strong as it is. One of the important ways we can do that is to attend all meetings . . . Greater New York Fund drive is coming up soon, which means that all of us will have another chance to show our respect for the commandment, "Love thy neighbor." I am sure we all do—and we all will. It's a wonderful thing to support.



Fay Mattimiro

### WHITE PLAINS

Congratulations are in order to all members for the truly excellent turnout to our Divisional Meeting. We were all pleased to welcome Vice President George Gurian and truly appreciated his intelligent talk on political action. It is the duty of every union member to thoroughly investigate the qualifications of all candidates for public office if we are to be reasonably sure that they will represent the interests of labor—and such representation would certainly be a welcome change compared with what we now have . . . John Breen, our very popular tailor, has just returned from six pleasant weeks of easy living on the auld sod. John says you can drink twice as much for the same money over there . . . Paula LaBella and Dom Paniccia have let it be known that they are engaged to be wed. Paula and Dom are two swell kids separately—and should certainly make a wonderful pair. We wish them the very best of everything good . . . With our expansion building rapidly nearing completion we can be on the lookout for a lot of new faces real soon. Let's be sure to give the newcomers a proper introduction to our Union, so that they will have as full an appreciation of it as we have. It will add a lot to our strength and our stature.



Bill Bittner

# Board Backs Call For State Primary; Votes Thanks For Leaders' Honesty

The Executive Board of Local 1-S, reconvening after a summer recess, seated new members Avion De Lagarde of Receiving and Anthony Biondo of Flatbush; accepted "with regret" the resignations of Richard Vaughan of the Sixth Floor and Catherine Healey of the Tea Room; approved unanimously a call for state-wide primary elections; voted its thanks to the Union's officers for "keeping the Union clean and strong"; congratulated a member for his vigilance in the fight against discrimination; named an Elections and Objections Committee to supervise the coming election of Union officers; and announced plans for expanded welfare services for the membership.

### PAC Reports

PAC Chairman Charles Boyd (8th Floor) said, "Tonight, unless a miracle happens, the Democratic Party will nominate a man picked by three leaders of the party. Tomorrow night, in Syracuse, the Republicans will name a candidate selected by the out-going governor. The people of the State have had almost nothing to say about the choices that will be open to them when they go to the polls in November. I therefore move that this Executive Board go on record favoring Statewide primary elections and that the Political Action Committee be authorized to ask City and State CIO to fight for the same."

## Members Gave FDR Nod On Straw Ballot

Results of the recent straw ballot campaign conducted by the Local 1-S Political Action Committee indicated strong grassroots support for Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., in the gubernatorial race. The poll itself was based on a broad sampling of Union members of diverse economic, social and political background, and included members living in greater New York as well as in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties.

One qualifying factor must be noted in the outcome of the poll; it was begun before Governor Dewey made public his decision to not stand for re-election, and was completed afterwards.

Tabulation of the ballots gave the candidates the following percentage of the vote:

Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt	43%
Averell Harriman	18%
Senator Irving Ives	11%
Mayor Robert Wagner	8%
Judge Harold Medina	6%
James A. Farley	6%
Gov. Thomas E. Dewey	4%

PAC Chairman Charles Boyd extended the thanks of the committee to all the Union's members who cooperated in helping to make the conduct of the poll a success, and said, "We can only hope that some of those who have expressed their interest will come and work with us on PAC. Good government requires the help of all. Do your share!"

**FREE  
LEGAL AID CLINIC  
at the  
UNION OFFICE  
Every Wednesday  
5 to 7 P.M.**

The motion was unanimously adopted.

### Anti-Discrimination

John Malone (Display), Chairman of the Union's Anti-Discrimination Committee praised Board member Tony Gentile (Receiving) for the speed with which he acted when he found in stock boxes of English shoes marked in an offensive manner.

"Tony," he said, "immediately went to labor relations and told them what was wrong. The company promptly wrote a letter to the foreign manufacturer stating their position and the Union's and asking that future shipments of brown shoes be marked differently. At the same time, the offensive markings were removed from all the boxes already on hand."

The Board also approved the purchase of six tickets for an affair honoring Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for their fights against discrimination. Proceeds of the affair will be used to finance future legal battles.

### Activities

Administrator Tony Puca reported on the coming Greater New York Fund campaign described on Page 3. He also announced that to date response to the Union's swim-gym program was light and in need of encouragement.

### Trial Committee

A Trial Committee consisting of Ann Arata and Ann Gutowsky (both of the 2nd Floor), Madeline Lawder (Comparison), Virginia Girardin (ASD) and John Malone (Display) was named.

They will hear the cases of Jordan Burriss (RRK), Terry Harding and Shirley Pullman, both of 940 Department. All three are charged with failure to pay arrears and of having ignored earlier warnings given by the Union.

### Thanks

Accompanied by loud applause the Board unanimously approved a motion by Jerry Harte (5th Floor) thanking the officers and the Welfare Board for the scrupulous honesty with which Union funds are handled, "especially in light of developments on other unions."

### More Welfare

Board Chairman and Vice President Phil Hoffstein announced that efforts were being made to obtain the weekly services of a lawyer specializing in Workmen's Compensation and a trained social worker capable of giving even better aid to members in need. An early announcement of the availability of these services is expected, he told the Board.

### Other Actions

At their request Tania Shostak (Basement), Jerry Harte (5th Floor) and Vincent Gates (9th Floor) were removed as I-S delegates to the New York City CIO Council. Esther Greenberg (3rd Floor) was named as a replacement.

## HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan, enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

## -an editorial- Anger and Disgust

Revelation of the mis-handling of union welfare funds must cause every decent and honest person to shudder in anger and disgust. We can only extend our sympathy to the thousands of trade union members whose confidence and funds have been so badly abused.

It is our belief, however, that there is no justification for interference by State authorities in the internal affairs of any union. Such investigations are staged more for the anti-labor publicity which results than for the practical good they may achieve; and that publicity is aimed at blackening the good name of all unions, although only a very few have sinned.

The only safeguard any union member has is the fullest inner-union democracy, which enables him to maintain constant control over the conduct of his affairs by elected officials.

Every member of Local 1-S can be proud of CIO Regional Director Michael Mann's description of our Union. He said that he, and all the officers of CIO, like us because we are "good and clean and strong."

We humbly acknowledge that we are all that because our officers never lose touch with the members and our members are able to democratically participate in every phase of Union life.

We look forward to the day when members of other unions will demand the right to be as active as our members have always been. For when that day comes their unions, too, will be "good and clean and strong."

## LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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LOCAL 1-S UNITED DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO  
290 Seventh Avenue New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein

2nd Vice Pres.: George Gurian

Editorial Board

Jerome Harte

Ceil Curry

Editor: Dick Pastor

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# Contract Defense and Political Action . . .

(Continued from page 1)

hitting on what they all knew were important points. He was emphatically accomplishing one of the aims of the conference—arming the Stewards for battles which lie ahead.

## Social Welfare

"We cannot afford to think of our social gains as merely being fine improvements in our contract, we must think of them in human terms to fully appreciate them," said Vice President George Gurian as he reported on "Our accomplishments in Union and Community social welfare."

The Union's Health Plan, Blood Bank, Pension Plan, Medical Panel and Welfare Counselling Service all took on the warmth of living things as he related them to people we work with day after day. To a woman whose hospital bill of nearly \$1200 was paid by the Health Plan. To the man whose son is a victim of leukemia and to whom the Blood Bank means life itself. To the man contemplating retirement under the Pension Plan. And to all members who know that we owe all we have to the strength of the Union—and are determined to see both strength and gains continue to grow.

"But," said Vice President Gurian, "we all know that we shudder and worry about our families when we hear of a case of polio in the neighborhood. This is because we recognize that our health depends on our living in a healthy community. We also know that, because of that, when we help our neighbor we are helping ourselves. In recognition of this we last year raised a record-breaking total of \$26,500 for the Greater New York Fund and have set our sights still higher this year."

The Vice President, after asking, "But have we done the best

we can?," then outlined a proposal for the building of a "community chest" by way of a small weekly contribution from each member which would then be divided among the worthy agencies at each year's end in accordance with the stated desires of the donors.

"In this way," he concluded, "we can even more adequately meet our responsibilities both to ourselves and our communities. In this way our Union more than ever becomes associated in the public mind with being concerned with the public good."

## "Good, Clean and Strong"

"Local 1-S is strong," CIO Regional Director Michael Mann told the Stewards, "not because someone waved a magic wand, but because of your solidarity and the skill of your leaders, who are a credit to you and all of CIO. As much as you've got," he declared, "you owe to Local 1-S, and as much more as you'll get will be through your union."

The CIO leader then went on to attack those union officials who have mis-used welfare funds. He said, "those men have robbed the people of money and benefits they need and have given them nothing."

Regional Director Mann again extolled Local 1-S by saying, "every page of your Union is an open book—both financially and morally. Yours is as fine a union as any we have in CIO."

## Political Action

"If anyone here or in the store thinks that political action belongs

to 'the next guy' he's sadly mistaken," said Mr. Mann as he scored the administration's give-away of tideland oils and the refusal to reduce personal income taxes.

"Every member should realize that if the CIO's tax program had been adopted it would have been the same as a nine-and-a-half cent an hour wage increase. We can get that by voting for the right man at the polls and by getting into political action in a big way."

## Obstacles

Attorney Asher Schwartz struck another political chord as he told the Shop Stewards that, "Local 1-S has won enough arbitration victories to make Macy's hesitant. But we have problems with arbitrators, too, since the political atmosphere affects many of their decisions."

"Since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act we've had growing antagonism towards unions by the National Labor Relations Board, by the courts and by arbitrators, too."

"Many of them feel that labor got too much power under the New Deal and adjustments in favor of management must now be made. In most cases," he said, "this is not thought out by these people, but is a reflection of the pressures that are on them."

"This heightens the need for political action," the fighting lawyer pointed out. "A different congress would affect our laws and through them the attitudes of the judges and arbitrators. We have an opportunity this year because labor is big and strong and its votes count."

"Take political action seriously, because it will put us in

a better position to improve our contract still further!"

## Compensation

And Compensation Attorney Joseph DeFede attacked the problem from still another angle.

He told the delegates that "while Governor Dewey was partly responsible for raising benefits from \$32 to \$36 for disability, the Governor told the employers of the state that he expected a saving of \$75 million a year. This saving will come because the newest interpretation of the law will result in the closing of many cases which should not be closed. This makes it doubly necessary to file claims on every accident, no matter how minor—and to file them promptly."

"It also makes necessary an administration whose interpretations of the law will be sympathetic to the workers."

## Resolutions Adopted

Other speakers at the conference were Financial Secretary

Cathryn Hall, PAC Chairman Charles Boyd and Education Director Dick Pastor.

All three urged a further strengthening of the Union through greater utilization of such instruments as the Wel-



Boyd

fare Board and the Counselling Service; the Political Action Committee, to which the Stewards were urged to name department representatives; and such educational material as Union classes, Shop Steward Newsletters and the Local 1-S News.

Before the floor was opened for discussion and before President Sam Kovenetsky summarized the day's proceedings, the Stewards unanimously adopted two resolutions presented for their consideration. The full text of the resolutions appears below.

## RESOLUTIONS

### To New York City Congressmen & Sens. Ives & Lehman:

**WHEREAS** most members of the Congress were fully aware that both the Butler Bill and the Brownell Bill were designed to control and destroy any or all trade unions in the United States, and

**WHEREAS** many members in both houses of Congress spoke vigorously in opposition to the enactment of such legislation, and

**WHEREAS** when the vote was taken many Representatives and Senators were found to be voting contrary to the best interests of the entire nation, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that sober reflection must reveal that the national interest and the freedom and well-being of all people will best be served by repeal of this anti-union, un-American law, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that we call upon you to introduce such a bill of repeal at the earliest possible moment and do all you can to assure its passage.

### To National, State and City CIO:

**WHEREAS** the well-being of organized labor and all other wage earners is endangered by rising unemployment, by the giving away of national resources, by the failure of the administration to provide needed tax relief and by its general favoring of big business at the expense of labor, and

**WHEREAS** at all levels of our organization our CIO leaders have expressed their determined opposition to all forms of McCarthyism, including such anti-labor bills as those submitted by Senator Butler and Attorney General Brownell, and

**WHEREAS** in the closing days of the recent session of Congress such a bill was passed, and

**WHEREAS** that law, known as the Humphrey-Butler-Dies Bill is aimed at the heart of labor by giving to the Attorney General and the Subversive Activities Control Board the power to destroy any and all unions on the complaint of an employer or other enemy of our trade unions,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that all our City, State and National CIO Councils assume the immediate responsibility for intensifying our political action work so that we may effectively fight for CIO's program of "Prosperity in Peacetime," and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these bodies of CIO give leadership for the fullest possible mobilization of our memberships for city, state and national delegations to Washington, D.C., when the Congress reconvenes, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the purpose of such delegations shall be to impress upon the entire Congress the urgency of the enactment of a program designed to protect the national interest and the well-being of labor, and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that such delegations seek to enlist the support of all Representatives and Senators for the introduction and passage of a bill repealing the anti-labor, un-American Humphrey-Butler-Dies Bill.

## 1-S Set For N. Y. Fund Campaign During Week of November 8-13



1-S members formed the largest part of the group as trained counsellors were graduated by CSC.

With the annual Greater New York Fund campaign scheduled to get under way the week of November 8 to 13 Administrator Tony Puca is busily helping put the finishing touches to the huge training program which must precede it.

Object of the training is to guarantee that every Local 1-S Shop Steward and every Macy executive has the know-how of getting voluntary contributions.

Build-up for the drive has actually been taking place for a full year. In the last twelve months many members of the Union have

received the direct assistance of several of the New York Fund's 423 participating agencies.

In every case this help has been given quickly and efficiently as a result of the training given to the officers and staff of the Union as well as to its Welfare Board by CIO's Community Services Committee.

These trained Union counsellors assist their fellow members by getting them directly to the agency best equipped to help them, thereby saving much time and energy that is often spent trying to unsnarl red tape.

Because Local 1-S was the largest labor contributor to last year's campaign the Union has received the Fund's maximum cooperation in all instances.

Said Local 1-S President Sam Kovenetsky, "We look forward to doing even better than we did last year, because we have found that our generosity pays big dividends. In addition to helping our neighbor we have proved that we are helping ourselves by supporting the Greater New York Fund. I hope that every member is looking ahead and is planning to give generously when the drive begins."

**YOU CAN'T VOTE  
IF YOU DON'T REGISTER**

**Back Your Candidate at the Polls—**

**BE SURE TO REGISTER**

**SEPT. 30, OCT. 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9th**

**From 3 PM to 10:30 PM**



# State CIO Gives Most Time to Political Race

As was to be expected of any gathering of labor which took place just a couple of weeks before the conventions of both major parties, the New York State CIO convention devoted the major part of its time to the question of candidates.

The Local 1-S delegation to the convention, headed by Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and George Gurian, consisted of Executive Board members Charles Boyd, Ceil Curry, Freda Praiser and Harry Webster.

The flat refusal of the convention to bow to the dictates of any political machine was generally regarded as its high point.

While rank and file sentiment produced almost unanimous support for the candidacy of Congressman Franklin D. Roosevelt for Governor it was regarded as even more significant that the move was taking place independent of the Democratic Party's usual "king makers."

The State CIO's refusal to commit itself to any candidate but Roosevelt was favorably viewed as

a big step towards the full use of labor's independent pressure for candidates and platforms responsive to the needs of the workers.

## Other Actions

Following the spirited discussion on political action, it was almost a routine procedure that saw the passage of a series of resolutions dealing with many important aspects of life.

Those resolutions embraced such subjects as foreign and domestic policy, civil rights and workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance and public housing, Taft-Hartley and Social Security, minimum wages and runaway industry and many others.

Said Vice Presidents Hoffstein and Gurian, "Aside from our natural interest in participating in the making of important decisions, it is always good to get together with other Union representatives and hear what is going on in their areas. This convention of the New York State CIO, like the many which have preceded it, helped strengthen all of us by again demonstrating the many issues we have



\* A GUY WHO SAYS: "I'LL GET AROUND TO IT SOONER OR LATER". HE USUALLY MISSES HIS CHANCE TO REGISTER AND VOTE.

DON'T BE A S.O.L.

GIVE A BUCK TO PAC REGISTER! VOTE!

in common and around which we are united."

## OFFICIAL NOTICE Divisional Meeting Schedule

This is the only official notice to be given for Divisional Meetings for all members including Saturday-onlies and Fractionals. Admission will be by 1954 Union card.

An unexcused absence will be liable to a \$2 assessment to the Welfare Fund as provided for in Article IX, Section 4 of the Local 1-S Constitution.  
**BE SURE TO ATTEND!**

GROUP	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Controllers	Fri. Oct. 1	6:30	Auditorium
Alteration & Repair	Mon. Oct. 4	10:45 a.m. & 6:30	Auditorium
ASD (PT)	Tues., Oct. 5	4:30	Auditorium
ASD (FT)	Tues. Oct. 5	6:30	Auditorium
9 FL (PT-FT)	Fri. Oct. 8	6:30	Auditorium
DA	Tues. Oct. 12	6:30	Auditorium
Supply	Tues. Oct. 12	4:30 & 6:30	Conference
Main FL (PT)	Wed. Oct. 13	5:00	Auditorium
Main FL (FT)	Wed. Oct. 13	6:45	Auditorium
Parkchester	Wed. Oct. 13	6:30	Chester House
4 FL (PT)	Tues. Oct. 26	5:00	Auditorium
4 FL (FT)	Tues. Oct. 26	6:45	Auditorium
3 FL (PT)	Wed. Oct. 27	5:00	Auditorium
3 FL (FT)	Wed. Oct. 27	6:45	Auditorium

PT — Part Time

FT — Full Time

All meetings are to be held at the Union office, 290 — 7th Avenue (between 26th and 27th Streets)

\* Meetings at which Floor Committee members will be elected.

## Steward Meeting Calendar

ASD	1st Tuesday of every month	6:15 PM
Controllers	1st Wednesday of every month	6:15 PM
PAC	1st Wednesday of every month	7:00 PM
Ad., Display, BofS, Comp.	1st Thursday of every month	6:15 PM
PAC	3rd Wednesday of every month	7:00 PM
DA	2nd Tuesday of every month	6:15 PM
Packing, Food, Supply, Alteration & Mfg.	Mon. Oct. 11	6:45 PM
Receiving, Housekeeping, MTE	Mon. Oct. 18	6:45 PM

## Official Notice

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:30 P.M.

MANHATTAN CENTER

34th Street & 8th Avenue

\$2 Assessment to the Welfare Fund for unexcused absence  
Admission by 1954 Union Card Only

## PERSONALS

FOR SALE—1941 Hudson 8 cyl, 4-door black sedan, good running condition. Spare and jack, directionals, seat covers, good gas mileage. Any reasonable offer. Phone TA 2-4931.

FOR SALE—South Ozone Park, detached 5-room shingled house with detached garage, private driveway, gas heat. Evenings and weekends, phone OL 9-7846.

FOR RENT—Large, light furnished room, suitable two people. Private bath. Corner all transportation. Washington Hgts. WA 3-8449 after 7.  
FOR RENT—Furnished room near Kingsbridge "D" train station. Kitchen privileges. Reasonable. Phone CY 5-6490.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

## TO THE EDITOR

### KEEP OUT OF POLITICS?

Recently several members have taken me to task about the role of PAC. The question seems to boil down to this: why don't we keep the Union out of politics? I believe this is a fair question and a fundamental one, deserving a thoughtful answer.

I believe trade unions, including ours, should participate in political action. Every union has a big stake in the political picture. The negotiations committee will be infinitely more certain to get results if the political climate has been conditioned by intensive participation of labor in politics. On the other hand, an employer will have little trouble turning down just demands and getting injunctions to back him up if the political climate is favorable to employers.

All the employer groups have their political action forces. Macy's, for instance, belongs to and sup-

ports several lobbying groups, including the National Retail Dry Goods Association. Mr. Atkinson, Macy's Vice President in charge of personnel (that means you and I) has represented the NRDGA many times in Washington. This group has lobbied to get the Congress to exempt the retail industry from the minimum wage law and other protective measures that you and I enjoy—in fact, too often taken for granted.

I believe Mr. Atkinson and NRDGA have a right to speak up for their point of view. On the other hand I believe working people, through their political action groups have the responsibility of speaking up for their side. No one else will speak up for us!

Most of the important acts of labor legislation which have radically changed working conditions over the past half century have been sponsored and put through by legislators whose elections were aided by the efforts of organized working people. Such legislation was achieved only after years and years of political work and planning by unions.

Someone asked: but is it right for labor to try to influence legislation?

I believe all groups have a right to work through political action and lobbying for their interests so long as decency and fair play is observed. It may be the only way to bring particular needs and particular situations to the attention of the various legislative bodies.

However, any special group undertaking political action is being irresponsible unless it keeps the general public welfare in mind. Here the trade union political groups, especially those in CIO, have set a high example for all groups attempting to influence legislation. In lobbying and campaigning for better schools, more public housing, better distribution of the products of farm and in-

dustry, protection of civil liberties, low cost public health insurance, etc., CIO has almost always had the great majority of the people in mind.

By contrast, consider an example of special lobbying. The sheep raisers of Nevada, who sent the author of the McCarran Immigration Act to Congress, are hard hit by the Act because most of their shepherds are imported from Europe. Many other industries and, in fact, the whole country is deprived in many ways by the McCarran Act. For instance, the Amsterdam Symphony, one of the world's outstanding musical organizations, could not tour America because two players could not meet all the rules of the McCarran Act.

These wealthy ranch owners could have lobbied for the revision or repeal of the McCarran Act. But they lobbied instead for special exemption from the law for shepherds only! And they lobbied successfully.

Can you imagine PAC lobbying for special exemption from Taft-Hartley for auto workers or cranberry pickers? That would be unheard of. Can you imagine any good trade union lobbying for housing for union members only?

I think no one has a better right to political activity than organized working people because no one has shown more public responsibility in politics. Because our objectives are best reached when the overall public welfare advances, I think this will always be true.

This is one worker's feeling about the union and political action. As present chairman of Local 1-S PAC I would like to hear from all of you people who disagree—also from the people who agree. Let's have some comment. Send your letter to Local 1-S PAC, 290 7th Avenue.

Sincerely,  
Charles Boyd

Statement Required by the Act of August 24, 1912, As Amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) Showing the Ownership, Management, and Circulation of Local 1-S NEWS, published twice monthly except June, July, August when published monthly at New York, N. Y. 1. The names and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are:  
Publisher: Local 1-S, United Department Store Workers of America, CIO, 290 Seventh Ave., N. Y. Editor: Dick Pastor, 290 Seventh Ave., N. Y. Managing editor, none. Business manager, none.

2. The owner is: (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)  
Name, Local 1-S, United Department Store Workers of America, CIO, 290 Seventh Avenue. Sam Kovenetsky, President, 290 Seventh Avenue. Philip Hoffstein, 1st Vice-President, 290 Seventh Avenue. George Gurian, 2nd Vice-President, 290 Seventh Avenue.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (if there are none, so state.)  
None.

Signed: Dick Pastor, Editor  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of September, 1954.  
Lewis A. Goltz  
(My commission expires March 30, 1955)

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